

Greetings!



Happy Holidays RecyCoolers! Wow, this year sure flew by fast, didn't it? It's hard to believe that the year has come and gone already. But that's okay with me since the holidays are one of my favorite times of the year. To me, the holidays mean chilly days filled with friends and family.

What are your favorite things to do during the holidays? If you enjoy playing outdoors like I do, I bet you get pretty thirsty! I know that my friends and I drink a ton of water, juice and sports drinks when we're playing.

By the end of the day, we sure do have a lot of empty beverage containers. I bet you can guess what we do with all of them, can't you? We save them and take them to the recycling center where we turn them in for cash! Getting money for recycling your bottles and cans is really fun... and cool! But the best thing about recycling is that it helps the environment, and saves a lot of natural resources and energy!

I know that all of you RecyCoolers do a great job of recycling your bottles and cans. But remember, there are a lot of other things you can do to help the environment and make the planet cleaner and healthier such as turning off lights and appliances in the house when they're not being used, shutting off the water while brushing your teeth and using cloth bags instead of paper or plastic bags at the grocery store.

Every day, each of us has many opportunities to make good decisions about how we live our lives. Even little things can make a big difference when it comes to the health and wellbeing of our planet. One person's actions can have a huge impact on the environment, which is why it is so important to recycle, reduce and reuse as often as you can! It's also important to share what you know with others and teach them how to make good choices too!

Remember RecyCoolers, from now on, the RecyCool Club newsletter will be published online only. That's one of the things I'm doing to help the earth. By not mailing out thousands of newsletters, I am saving hundreds of trees and lots of energy! So, don't forget to check out the newsletter on my website, http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dor/rre/Pages/index.aspx — and tell your friends about it too! Have a great year and remember to recycle where you live, learn and play!

RECYCLE



Scrambling Snafu

Recycle Res

Hey RecyCoolers! Rex accidentally scrambled all of the words below and needs to get them straightened out again. Help him out by unscrambling them as fast as you can!

1) cueder

2) thera

3) ilaptos

4) cerlecy

5) nac

6) toblet

7) nergey

8) tinbaleussa

9) slags

10) esure

11) nulamumi

12) moriventnen

(Answer on page 4)

How Big is your Footprint?

Even though we don't always realize it, each and every one of us has a big impact on the earth. I know it's hard to believe that one person can make such a huge difference, but it's true! During our lifetime, the decisions we make can either help the world become better or worse. We all leave a footprint on the planet...

and the smaller the footprint, the better!

Take the test below and find out the size of your footprint. For each question, put a checkmark in the correct column.

Care	Point Value:	1	2 3	
	Α	lways Some	etimes	Never
l. Do you recycle your beverage container	bottles and cans?			
2. Do you recycle your magazines and new	vspapers?			
3. Do you recycle your empty steel cans a	and glass jars?			
4. Do you turn off the water while brushin	g your teeth?			
5. Do you ride your bicycle to school and a	activities?			
6. Do you use energy efficient light bulbs .	at home?			
7. Do you take your lunch in a reusable ba	ag or container?			
3. Do you grow vegetables in a garden at	home?			
9. Do you buy items that are made of rec	ycled materials?			
IO. Do you donate your used clothes and t	coys to charity?			
	Total			

Now calculate your score by multiplying the number of answers in each column

by the number of points at the top. Add all of your points together to get your final score and find out the size of your footprint!

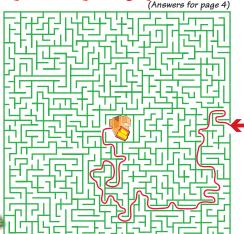
If your score is...

10-16: You are a true environmentalist! Great job...Keep up the fantastic work!

17-23: You are an environmentalist in training. Try a little harder and you<mark>'ll' be there!</mark>

24-30: You are wasting way too many natural resources... you need to change your behavior fast!

Recycle Rex's Super Maze



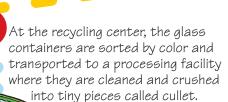
How Glass is Recycled

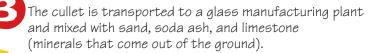
The glass bottles collected from your curbside bins are taken to the recycling center.

Have you ever thought about what happens to the glass bottles you place into your curbside recycle bin or take to the recycling center to be recycled?

Recycled glass can be used to make marbles, jars, bottles, plates, bowls, tiles and more!





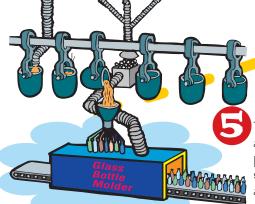




After mixing, the batch is fed into a furnace and is melted into a thick liquid at temperatures that can reach around 2800 degrees Fahrenheit. (Ouch! And you thought walking on the sand at the beach was hot.)



The melted glass is dropped into a glass forming machine where it is poured into molds, blown with air and shaped into its final shape; such as a soda bottle.



BEOYOLB

Department of Conservation
• Division of Recycling
1-800-RECYCLE

www.conservation.ca.aov



Once the mold is removed, the glass is cooled, inspected and shipped to companies that make drinks and food products.



State of California THE RESOURCES AGENCY Department of Conservation Division of Recycling 801 K Street, MS 17-01 Sacramento, CA 95814

How long does it take our trash to decompose or breakdown?

Aluminum cans = 80-100 years

Glass bottles and jars = 1,000,000 years

Plastic bottles and jugs = 700 years

Plastic bags and disposable diapers = 10-20 years

Orange and banana peels = 2-5 weeks

School papers and newspaper = 2-4 weeks

Plastic toy = 450-1,000 years

Cotton shirt = 1-5 months

Recycle Rex's Super Maze

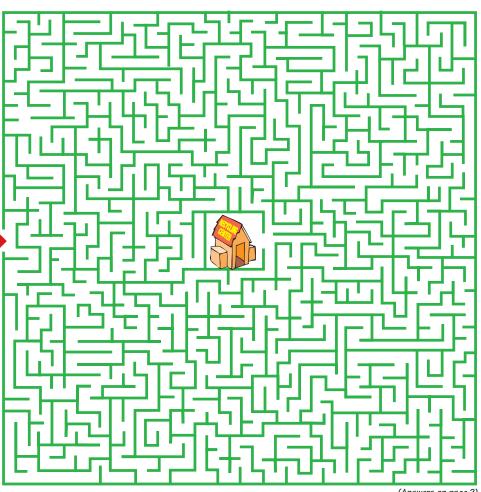
Hey RecyCoolers! Recycle Rex needs your help! He needs to get all of his bottles and cans to the recycling center, but he has to get through the maze first. Use your navigating skills to steer Rex in the right direction. Ready, set, go! (See page 2 for the answer)



Rex's Scrambling Snafu

Answers for p. 1

911109 (9 12) environment munimula (II neo (G 4) recycle əsnəı (OL 99 glass oiterly (5 aldeniateue (8 Athes (S 7) energy reduce



(Answers on page 2)